



Lent 1 Yr A – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**Who will you listen to?**

**Greeter:** Wendy

**Meditation Hymn: Come Holy Spirit (TIS 710)**

Come, Holy Spirit,  
gracious heavenly dove;  
come, fire of love.

**Welcome:**

**Greeting:**

On this first Sunday of Lent  
May the Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

**Moment of Stillness:**

**Lent Candles:**

In Lent we set love upon our hearts and feet and walk with Jesus towards the cross. As a reminder that Jesus did not shy from entering the darkest and most difficult places, we blow out a candle each week.

*[One candle is blown out]*

In our walking we know that we are not alone,

for Jesus has walked this road before us,  
and God's Spirit rests upon us as we take this journey forward.

***Acknowledgement First Peoples:***

We acknowledge that we are on the land of the Gadigal and Wangal people and that the Spirit was in the land revealing God to them through law, custom and ceremony.

**We honour the wisdom of the Gadigal and Wangal Elders and their continuing culture, and pray that we might all work together for reconciliation and justice in this nation.**

***Call to Worship:***

Listen!

There is hope to be found here.

**Listen!**

**God calls you by name here.**

Listen!

There is love that abides here.

This world is full of chatter,

**so may we do our best to listen.**

God is speaking.

**Let us worship.**

**Amen.**

***Opening Prayer:***

Holy God,

Listening is always easier said than done.

We shuffle into this space and try to quiet our minds,  
but the list of distractions is long.

We need your help to listen.

So today we ask that you would  
marinate us in your Word.

Dust the cobwebs from our ears.

Stir our souls awake.

Crack open our hearts to make room for you.

We want to hear you,

really hear you,  
so speak to us now.  
With hope we pray,  
**Amen**

**Hymn: So God loved the people of the world** (TIS 241 – Aboriginal melody)

So God loved the people of the world  
he gave his only Son,  
who was born by Spirit from heaven  
and came and lived as one of us.

His blood for our sins was shed;  
his love is without end.  
He has given us the fullness of life,  
to live in heaven with him.

And so we give glory to Christ,  
for he alone is Lord.  
Every colour and race is his own,  
the Saviour of the universe.

**Prayer of Confession:**

Friends, if you are seeking grace, this moment is for you.  
If you are seeking growth, this moment is for you.  
If you are seeking honesty, this moment is for you.  
In the prayer of confession, we admit to ourselves and to God that we do not  
have it all figured out. And in that vulnerability, we are surrounded by God's  
grace. So, in this knowledge, let us pray:

Holy God,  
Too often we treat your Word like a radio station—something we can tune in  
and out of when it's convenient. Our minds are full of ads, emails, news  
updates, and notifications.  
In the midst of this clutter, we tend to gravitate toward the voices that think like  
us—easily ignoring the voices being silenced, easily ignoring your voice.  
Forgive us for failing to listen.  
Forgive us for getting caught in distractions.  
Forgive us for forgetting what your voice sounds like.  
Drain the distractions from our minds and help us turn once again toward you.

With earnest hearts we pray  
**Amen**

*Words of assurance:*

Friends, even when we tune God out,  
even when we prioritise other voices,  
even when we do all the talking and fail to listen,  
we are still held by God.  
Nothing could ever separate us from God's love.  
Our sins are forgiven.

So with joy in our hearts, let us affirm together:  
**I am loved!**  
**I am held in grace!**  
**I belong to God.**  
**Amen.**

***Peace:***

The peace of Christ be always with you  
**And also with you.**

*Let's share Christ's peace with one another*

***Hymn: Seek Ye First*** (TIS 745)

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God  
And his righteousness,  
And all these things  
Shall be added unto you,  
Allelu, alleluia.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu, alleluia

Ask, and it shall be given unto you.  
Seek and ye shall find.  
Knock and it shall be opened unto you  
Allelu, alleluia.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu, alleluia

We shall not live by bread alone,  
But by every word  
That proceeds from the mouth of God  
Allelu, alleluia.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu, alleluia

***Moment for the young at heart: Tonia***

***Bible Readings: Christo***

**Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

<sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

**3** Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, <sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God,<sup>[a]</sup> knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

**Matthew 4:1-11**

**4** Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup> But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’  
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” <sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’ ”

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Hear the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection:** Joy

**Moment of Stillness:**

**Prayers of the People:** Clabon

**The Lord’s Prayer:**

**Our Father in heaven  
hallowed be your name.  
your kingdom come  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread  
forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us in the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours.  
Now and forever.  
Amen**

## ***Community News:***

### ***Offering Prayer:***

Creator God,  
Take our Lenten offerings  
and make them radical;  
Grow their actions,  
enable their impact.  
As we prepare for tomorrow,  
may your will be done.  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
***Amen.***

### ***Song: What a friend we have in Jesus***

What a Friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear.  
All because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful,  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Saviour, still our refuge,  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do your friends despise, forsake you?

Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In His arms He'll take and shield you;  
you will find a solace there.

Blessed Saviour, You have promised  
You wilt all our burdens bear.  
May we ever, Lord, be bringing  
all to You in earnest prayer.  
Soon in glory, bright, unclouded,  
there will be no need for prayer.  
Rapture, praise and endless worship  
will be our sweet portion there.

### ***Benediction & Blessing:***

As you leave this place,  
may God bless you with seeking.  
Seek out the hungry.  
Seek the weary.  
Seek the good in every person you pass.  
Seek out the hopeful.  
Seek the faithful.  
Seek God in each of us.  
As you seek and as you wonder,  
may you find what you are looking for.  
In the name of our loving God,  
who is always seeking us,  
go now in peace.

And the blessing of God Almighty;  
Creator, Christ and Spirit  
Be upon you and remain with you always.

### **3-fold-Amen**

*Acknowledgements:*

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*Other liturgy: Sanctified Art*